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# LESSON 1

## GRAND STRATEGY

### THEORY AND PRACTICE

#### Introduction

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**Purpose**

This lesson explains

- wNational security strategy is
  - wFactors affecting strategy and grand strategy
  - wThe wide range of theories and approaches discussed in international relations since the World War I
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**Why Study  
National  
Security  
Strategy?**

Studying national security strategy helps you

- wDevelop your own theories about strategy and the relationship between strategy and war
  - wUnderstand the multiple factors, from both the domestic and international arenas, that shape grand strategy and national policy
  - wUnderstand the difference between strategy, policy, and grand strategy
  - wEnhance your ability to analyze strategy at the national and international levels
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## Introduction, Continued

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**Relationship to  
Other  
Instruction**

wThis lesson will help you determine sound national strategy when you work on the course problems involving multinational and joint operations. It also will refine concepts found earlier in the *Theory and Nature of War* (8801), particularly as they relate to the use of force and national interests.

wGrand strategy provides a framework for analyzing key decision making concepts and ideas integral to case studies in future lessons of this course. Understanding grand strategy is essential to assessing the effectiveness of World War II allied and axis strategists. Elements of grand strategy also resurface during the *Operational Level of War* (8803), *Warfighting From the Sea* (8804 through 8808), and *Operations Other than War* (8809) courses.

**Study Time**

This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 4 hours of study.

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# Educational Objectives

<b>Use of Force</b>	Explain the use of force in today's global settings.
<b>Domestic and Foreign Policy</b>	Explain the relationship between domestic and foreign policy and between domestic and military relations.
<b>Interests and Strategy</b>	Analyze the relationships among national interests, national strategy, and military strategy.
<b>Future Uses of Military Force</b>	Determine potential future uses of military force in joint and multinational arenas. [JPME Area 1e]
<b>Global Environment</b>	Analyze the global environment within which national strategy and policy are formulated.
<b>Objectives, Capabilities, and Resources</b>	Identify the difficulties of matching objectives with capabilities and resources in an environment of competing requirements. [JPME Area 4a, 4b]
<b>JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)</b>	1/e/1.0 4/a/0.5 4/b/0.5

## Lesson Overview

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### **Definition of Strategy**

Strategy is the art and science of developing and using the political, economic, and informational powers of a nation, together with its Armed Forces, to secure national objectives during peace and war.

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### **Importance of International Relations**

Originally, the study of international relations involved questions of political organization and political morality, diplomatic history, and balance of power problems.

Today, the field is more concerned with power relationships and the ability of nations and states to project power. Central to this new approach are the following questions:

How and to what extent can military force be used to meet specific objectives?

How does a nation-state maintain its position of power and influence given an increasing competition for global resources? International relations also addresses issues regarding interdependence and wealth.

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### **Instruments of National Power**

National power stems from the following instruments:

- Military
- Economic
- Diplomatic
- Informational

Each instrument is a combination of subordinate instruments. The instruments are interrelated and are employed in combination with each other. Their value changes over time and with changing circumstances.

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### **Geography**

Geography is related to national power through geostrategic considerations. Geostrategic considerations are the influence of geographical factors (terrain, climate, natural resources, etc.) on political decisions.

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## Lesson Overview, Continued

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### **The Grand Strategy Model**

wGrand strategy relates means and ways to ends. It is also a complex system of social, economic, and political interactions in support of a nation's interests.

wGrand strategy embodies a nation's values and principles in support of its policies. Think of it as an enduring, but not a rigid system.

wGrand strategy converts public demands (inputs) into policies (outputs) through a complex political process involving the interaction between the legislative and executive branches of government as well as the interagency process.

wA successful grand strategy must be able to generate a force structure in support of policy.

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### **Domestic Influences on National Policy**

An array of domestic and international factors exert an influence on National Policy. Domestic influences include the following:

wStructural aspects of the American system of checks and balances among the branches of government.

wPolitical influences, which include partisan political differences, competing domestic priorities, "pork versus policy" dilemmas, etc.

wSocietal influences, which include American values and self-image and traditional policy debates (for example, isolationism versus interventionism, idealism versus geopolitics, conservatism versus liberalism, etc.).

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### **International Influences on National Policy**

International influences on National Policy include

- wEconomic imperatives
  - wIdeological and cultural forces
  - wDemographic trends
  - wEnvironmental concerns
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## Required Readings

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### *Strategic Level of War Readings*

- Art, Robert. "The Four Functions of Force." *To What Ends Military Power?* Edited by Robert Art and Kenneth Waltz. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press Journals, 1993, pp. 3 to 11. This reading is located immediately following this lesson, pp. A-3 to A-11. Each state's purpose in using force in a given instance must fall into one of the four functions described in this essay. Which one it falls in is an exercise in judgment; an exercise that depends as much upon the particulars of the given case as it does upon the general features of the given category.
- Crawl, Philip A. "The Strategist's Short Catechism: Six Questions Without Answers." *The Harmon Memorial Lectures in Military History, 1959-1987*, pp. 8-19. This reading is located immediately following this lesson, pp. A-13 to A-24. In a lecture given at the U.S. Air Force Academy, the author outlines questions that strategists have historically asked before commencing war. The lecture discusses national objectives and the military means to achieve those objectives as well as the political considerations involved in the planning process. All the questions are based on the history of war and diplomacy in the Western World over the past century and a half.
- Kurth, James. "America's Grand Strategy," *The National Interest*, Number 43, Spring 1996. This reading is located immediately following this lesson, pp. A-25 to A-33. This article argues that U.S. strategy has been set in place by historical tradition and the tact of foreign policy swayed by the particular strengths and weaknesses of the nation as a whole.
- Jablonsky, David, "National Power," *Parameters*, Spring 1997. pp. 34-54. This reading is located immediately following this lesson, pp. A-35 to A-55. Colonel Jablonsky (Ret) asks "power over whom, and with respect to what?" This article attempts to establish why the term National Power is unable to be properly assessed and defined.
- Institute for National Security Studies. "Executive Summary." *Strategic Assessment 1997*, pages xi-10. This reading is located immediately following this lesson, pp. A-57 to A-72. This article shows a wide array of threats and threat models and presents the defense planner with ever increasing challenges. This article is an analysis of force structure and planning.

## For Further Study

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### Supplemental Readings

The readings listed are **not** required. They are provided as recommended sources of additional information about topics in this lesson that may interest you. They will increase your knowledge and augment your understanding of this lesson.

wJoint Pub 0-2, *United Action Armed Forces*, 24 February 1995.

wJoint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*, 1 February 1995.

wJoint Pub 1, *Joint Warfare of the Armed Forces of the United States*, 10 January 1995.

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## Issues for Consideration

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### **Elements of National Power**

wWhat are the elements of national power?

wWhat is the relative utility of each element in the evolving international environment including joint and multinational uses?

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### **Importance of Military Power**

Is military power important for the successful conduct of a nation's policy?

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### **Grand Strategy**

wWhat is grand strategy?

wIs grand strategy possible only when a nation confronts one single threat (for example, the Soviet Union), but not a multi-faceted threat as is the case today?

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### **Influence on National Policy**

What domestic issues or factors influence national security policy?

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### **International Influences**

What are the international influences on national security policy?